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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/311,428	05/13/99	O CONNOR	J 54205-B/JPW/

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HM12/0615

EXAMINER

COOK, L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1641

DATE MAILED:

06/15/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/311,428

Applicant(s)

O'Connor And Birken

Examiner

Lisa V. Cook

Group Art Unit
1641



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 1, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 58-66 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-5 and 58-66 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

1. Please note that the Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit **1641**. All communications should be directed to **Lisa V. Cook**, whose telephone number is **(703) 305-0808**.

Preliminary Amendment

2. In response to Applicant's preliminary amendment, filed 12/1/99 (paper #6) – Claims 6-57 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Currently, claims 1-5 and 58-66 are pending and under consideration:

Election/Restrictions

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-5, are drawn to a method/process of predicting pregnancy outcome in a subject by determining the amount of an early pregnancy associated molecular isoform of hCG in a sample, classified in class 436, subclass 510.
- II. Claims 58-66, are drawn to a product/ antibody and hybridoma cell, classified in class 530, subclass 300 and class 530, subclass 350.

4. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the inventions are patently distinct. The antibody of Group II can be used in a materially different process such as a reagent in hCG purification or production. Further, the method of Group I can be useful with other suitable antibodies. This fact is supported in the instant specification on page 81, lines 11-27. Two antibodies with distinct specificity's for isoform hCG are disclosed. Both antibodies can be utilized in the method of Group I. Thus, the method can be practiced with another materially different product.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Please note that the classifications in the restriction are illustrative only and **do not** represent all the classes and subclasses which must be searched for each invention; nor is the search limited to issued US patents, but rather includes foreign patents and applications as well as literature searches.

6. A telephone call was made to Spencer Snider (John P. White: 28,678) on 6/9/00 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

7. Applicant is reminded that upon cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(l).

8. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 1641 Fax number is (703) 308-4242, which is able to receive transmissions 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.